(b) The post of the Drill Instructor is a special one which requires only the necessary technical qualification or training. Hence the minimum educational qualification required by S.O. No. 1 is not insisted on by the Government in the case of that appointment, and hence the exemption. The Drill Instructors (Gymnastic Instructors) attached to the Police and the Havildar Major Instructor attached to the Sayar Brigade are also similarly exempted under the same S.O.

Supply of Tuticorin Salt.

42. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) who are the persons who have tendered for the supply of Tuticorin salt; is the variety of salt to be supplied tested by experts and found good for human consumption;

(b) to whom was the contract entrusted?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—(a) Names of the tenderers are given below.—

1. Mr. M. Viswanath, 39, Esplanade, Madras.
2. Mr. M. Subbiah Nadar, Salt Merchant, Tuticorin.
3. Mr. R. M. H. Kasi Rama Ayyar, Salt Merchant, Tuticorin.
4. Mr. S. V. Nallaperumal Pillai, Tuticorin.
5. Mr. M. Rm. Rama Pillai and Sons, Tuticorin.
6. Mr. S. K. M. G. Ghulam Mohideen Tharaganar and Bros., Salt Merchants, Tuticorin.
7. Mr. M. R. Manner Iyyah, B. A. and B. L., Salt Merchant, Tuticorin.
8. Mr. Lazar Paul Attikaran, Trichur.

No testing by experts was considered necessary. It is largely used in British India and in Travancore for human consumption.

(b) Mr. S. V. Nallaperumal Pillai, Salt Merchant, Tuticorin.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—May I know, Sir, whether the least tender has been accepted in this case?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—The rates accepted were the least.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.—May I know, how the price of the salt compare with the Bombay salt?

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Mr. M. P. Cherian.—The Bombay rate is 53 and odd rupees and Tuticorin salt 44 and odd.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.—What is the cause of the difference?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—The difference lies in the size of the crystals and the price varies accordingly.

Mr. President.—The real point is whether this Tuticorin salt compare favourably with the quality available at Bombay.

Mr. M. P. Cherian.— The quality is more or less the same.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know the rate of given by Lazar Paul Autokaran, Trichur?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Rs. 47/-.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.— What was the rate Nallaperumal Pillai?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Rs. 44—13—0.

Dr. A. R. Menon.— Why did not the Government purchase salt from Tuticorin last year? The quality remaining the same and the purchase price less, what was the reason for the Cochin Government in not purchasing salt from Tuticorin, instead of from Bombay?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—We were getting salt from Bombay. There was no necessity to change that practice.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—After knowing that the price is cheaper at Tuticorin, why did you not buy it from Tuticorin before?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—This year we tried as an experimental measure, that is all.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.— Was Cochin getting salt from Tuticorin at any time?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Only once, some years back.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.— How many years back?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—I do not exactly remember.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What was the reason for discontinuing it?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—The Contract was for Bombay salt. But the contractor was not able to supply Bombay salt on account of war.

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Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—What was the lowest rate at which it was accepted:—

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Rs. 44-13—0.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—What was the rate offered by Mr. Nallaperumal Pillai?

Mr. M. P. Cheirian.—Rs. 44-13—0.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Was that the rate originally tendered by him?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—His original rate was Rs. 50/-

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know, how it was reduced?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—He subsequently put in a petition stating that he was prepared to reduce it.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Did the Government ask the other tenderers whether they were also prepared to reduce the rates?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.— One gentleman was prepared to reduce it—Mr. Mannar Aiyah to Rs. 49/-.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—My question is whether the other tenderers were given an opportunity to lower their tender rates.

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—I consulted most of them. Only one was prepared to reduce it.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Why did you think it necessary to depart from the general practice?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.— To make some gain to the Government.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—In that case why did you not consult all the tenderers?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—I consulted most of the tenderers who were available. When I went to Tuticorin, I consulted those who were present there and consulted the Trichur men also. They were not prepared to reduce their rates.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Did you notify your visit to Tuticorin and ask them to be present?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—No.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Then how can these people know that you were there?

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Mr. M. P. Cherian.—I went to several of their factories.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— Excepting probably a few interested persons who got scent of your going, my information is that the others were not present.

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—I did not keep my visit a private one.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—What was the nature of the work that the Excise Commissioner did there?

Mr. M P. Cherian.—He enquired about the reliability of the several tenderers. We wanted to pick up one who will be able to supply us with good salt.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— The Excise Commissioner went there to enquire about the reliability of the tenderers and not about the quality of the salt.

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—The reliability of the men as also the quality of the salt.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— Can you not ask them to furnish security?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.— The security may be furnished. What shall we do if they are not going to supply us salt?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— Was it the custom of the department to go to the locality and personally enquire about the solvency or otherwise of the tenderers?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.— This is only an experimental measure.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ.—സെൻട്രൽ ഫാറത്തിൽ ഈ ഉപ്പ് പരിശോധിച്ചു നോക്കയുണ്ടായൊ?

Mr. K. Krishna Warriar.—We tested the samples and also the sample that was available in the bazaar. I find that the sample is superior to Bombay salt in point of colour and in point of purity also.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ.—സാമ്പിൾ അയച്ച ഉപ്പ് തന്നെയാണോ പരിശോധിച്ചത്?

Mr. K. Krishna Warriar.—The sample was sent by the Agricultural Inspector, C. K. Taluk.

Cultivation of tobacco in the State.

43. **Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) whether tobacco is grown anywhere in the State;

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